



EQ Learn

March 20, 2023

Dear Ellen McDaniel,

I am writing a letter of support for HF 46, which would create a Restorative Justice Office in the Children and Families Division in DHS, as well as the formation of steering committees for Restorative Justice programs across the State.

As the DHS Grant Manager for the Minnesota School-based Diversion Program for students with co-occurring disorders for the past 5 years, and the continuing grant manager for project renewal, I have had the opportunity to work with six pilot school districts across the State. Our goal has been to divert police intervention with students in school settings to supportive services such as restorative interventions, mental health support, and chemical health services.

Based on everything we know about teenage brain development, this is a logical and long-overdue change of course in order to interrupt the infamous school-to-prison pipeline. Minnesota needs to find ways to support our youth rather than to chastise and punish those who need adult guidance.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my endorsement of this bill.

Kind Regards,



Dr. Charlene K. Myklebust, Psy.D,
pronouns: she, her

President, EQ Learn, LLC and Stone Arch Learning, LLC

Mental Health & Educational Consulting. Professional Development.

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Special Education Administration Consultant, Osseo Area Schools

Special Education Administration Consultant, Bloomington Schools

Metro ECSU COVID Workforce Recovery Grant Consultant

Minnesota School-based Diversion Model Grant Manager